

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 2, 5-11, and 19-21 are pending in the application, with claims 2, 5, 8, 19, and 20 being the independent claims. Claims 3 and 13-16 are sought to be canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 19 and 20 are sought to be amended. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

***Reconciliation of Claim Numbers***

The present Office Action, dated April 29, 2004 (PTO Prosecution File Wrapper Paper No. 6), was mailed after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, dated October 2, 2003 (PTO Prosecution File Wrapper Paper No. 5), which in turn was filed after the issuance of a Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due, dated July 2, 2003 (PTO Prosecution File Wrapper Paper No. 4).

The present Office Action contends that claims 1-16 are pending in the present application. (*See*, Office Action Summary at block 4.) However, at the time that the Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due was issued, claims 2, 3, 5-11, 13-16, and 19-21 were pending in the present application.

During an August 26, 2004, telephone conversation between Applicants' representative, Mr. Timothy Doyle, and USPTO representative, Mr. Robert Pascal, it

was determined that the present Office Action renumbered the claims from their originally assigned numbers as follows:

claim 2 was renumbered as claim 1;  
claim 3 was renumbered as claim 2;  
claim 5 was renumbered as claim 3;  
claim 6 was renumbered as claim 4;  
claim 7 was renumbered as claim 5;  
claim 8 was renumbered as claim 6;  
claim 9 was renumbered as claim 7;  
claim 10 was renumbered as claim 8;  
claim 11 was renumbered as claim 9;  
claim 13 was renumbered as claim 10;  
claim 14 was renumbered as claim 11;  
claim 15 was renumbered as claim 12;  
claim 16 was renumbered as claim 13;  
claim 19 was renumbered as claim 14;  
claim 20 was renumbered as claim 15; and  
claim 21 was renumbered as claim 16.

Furthermore, during the August 26, 2004, telephone conversation it was also noted that, in the present Office Action, renumbered claim 3 (originally 5) was allowed, but there were objections to renumbered claims 4 and 5 (originally 6 and 7), which depend from claim 3 (originally 5). (*See*, Office Action Summary at blocks 5 and 7.) Mr. Pascal indicated that renumbered claims 4 and 5 (originally 6 and 7) are also allowed; block 5 of the Office Action Summary should reference renumbered claims 1,

3, and 4-9 (originally 2, 5, and 6-11); and block 7 of the Office Action Summary should reference only renumbered claim 15 (originally 20).

***Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102***

The Office Action rejected renumbered claims 2, 10, 14, and 16 (originally 3, 13, 19, and 21) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,604,464 to Hwang *et al.* (hereinafter "Hwang"). (*See*, Office Action at p. 2.)

Regarding renumbered claims 2 and 10 (originally 3 and 13), Applicants have canceled these claims without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein, rendering the rejections of these claims moot.

Regarding renumbered claims 14 and 16 (originally 19 and 21), Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Amended independent renumbered claim 14 (originally 19) recites (emphasis added):

A method of extending an input signal range of a component that receives the input signal, comprising the step of:

- (1) level shifting a voltage of the input signal;
  - (2) processing said level shifted voltage within the component;
- and
- (3) ***selecting a subcomponent, from a plurality of subcomponents within the component, to process said level shifted voltage.***

Hwang does not anticipate independent renumbered claim 14 (originally 19) because, *inter alia*, Hwang does not disclose, teach, or suggest "selecting a subcomponent, from a plurality of subcomponents within the component, to process said level shifted voltage". Hwang also does not anticipate renumbered claim 16 (originally 21) because it depends directly from renumbered claim 14 (originally 19) and because of the additional

distinctive features of renumbered claim 16 (originally 21). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and remove her rejections of renumbered claims 14 and 16 (originally 19 and 21) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

***Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103***

The Office Action rejected renumbered claims 2, 10-14, and 16 (originally 3, 13-16, 19, and 21) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over published European Patent Appl. No. EP 0 723 352 A2 to Hunt (hereinafter "Hunt"). (*See*, Office Action at pp. 2-3.)

Regarding renumbered claims 2 and 10-13 (originally 3 and 13-16), Applicants have canceled these claims without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein, rendering the rejections of these claims moot.

Regarding renumbered claims 14 and 16 (originally 19 and 21), Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. The Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness because, *inter alia*, Hunt does not disclose, teach, or suggest "selecting a subcomponent, from a plurality of subcomponents within the component, to process said level shifted voltage". Therefore, renumbered claim 14 (originally 19) is patentable over Hunt. Renumbered claim 16 (originally 21) is also patentable over Hunt because renumbered claim 16 (originally 21) depends directly from renumbered claim 14 (originally 19) and because of the additional distinctive features of renumbered claim 16 (originally 21). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and remove her rejections of renumbered claims 14 and 16 (originally 19 and 21) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

The Office Action indicates that renumbered claims 4, 5, and 15 (originally 6, 7, and 20) "are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." The Office Action also indicates that renumbered claims 1, 3, and 6-9 (originally 2, 5, and 8-11) "are allowed." (Office Action p. 3.)

Regarding renumbered claims 4 and 5 (originally 6 and 7), as noted above, these claims depend from renumbered claim 3 (originally 5), which is allowed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that renumbered claims 4 and 5 (originally 6 and 7) be passed to allowance.

Regarding renumbered claim 15 (originally 20), Applicants have amended this claim to include all of the features of renumbered claim 14 (originally 19). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that renumbered claim 15 (originally 20) be passed to allowance.

***Conclusion***

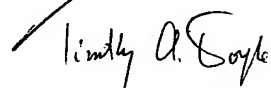
All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for

allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Timothy A. Doyle  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 51,262

Date: 30 AUG 04

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600